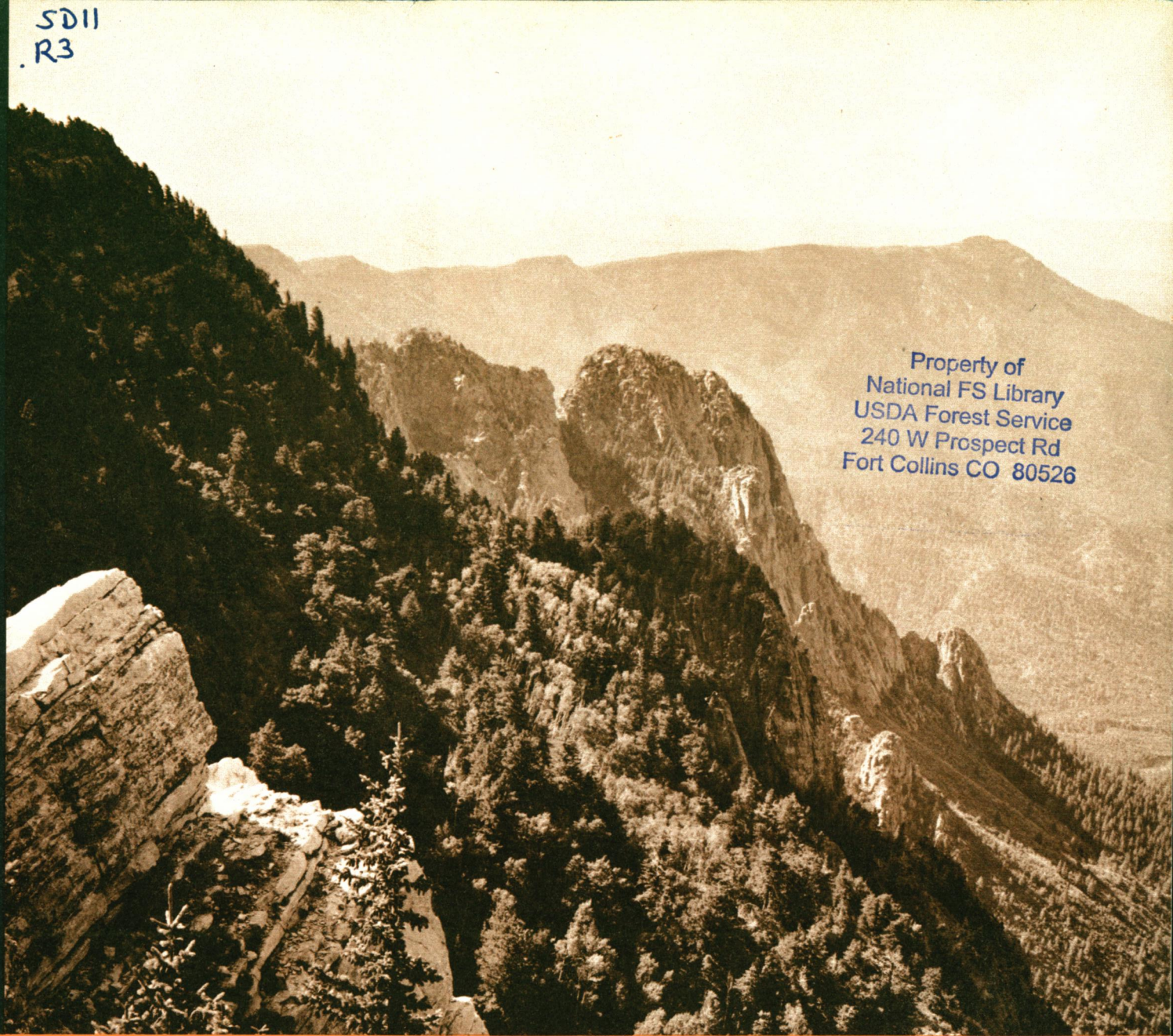


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MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT

of your

CIBOLA *National Forest*

provides

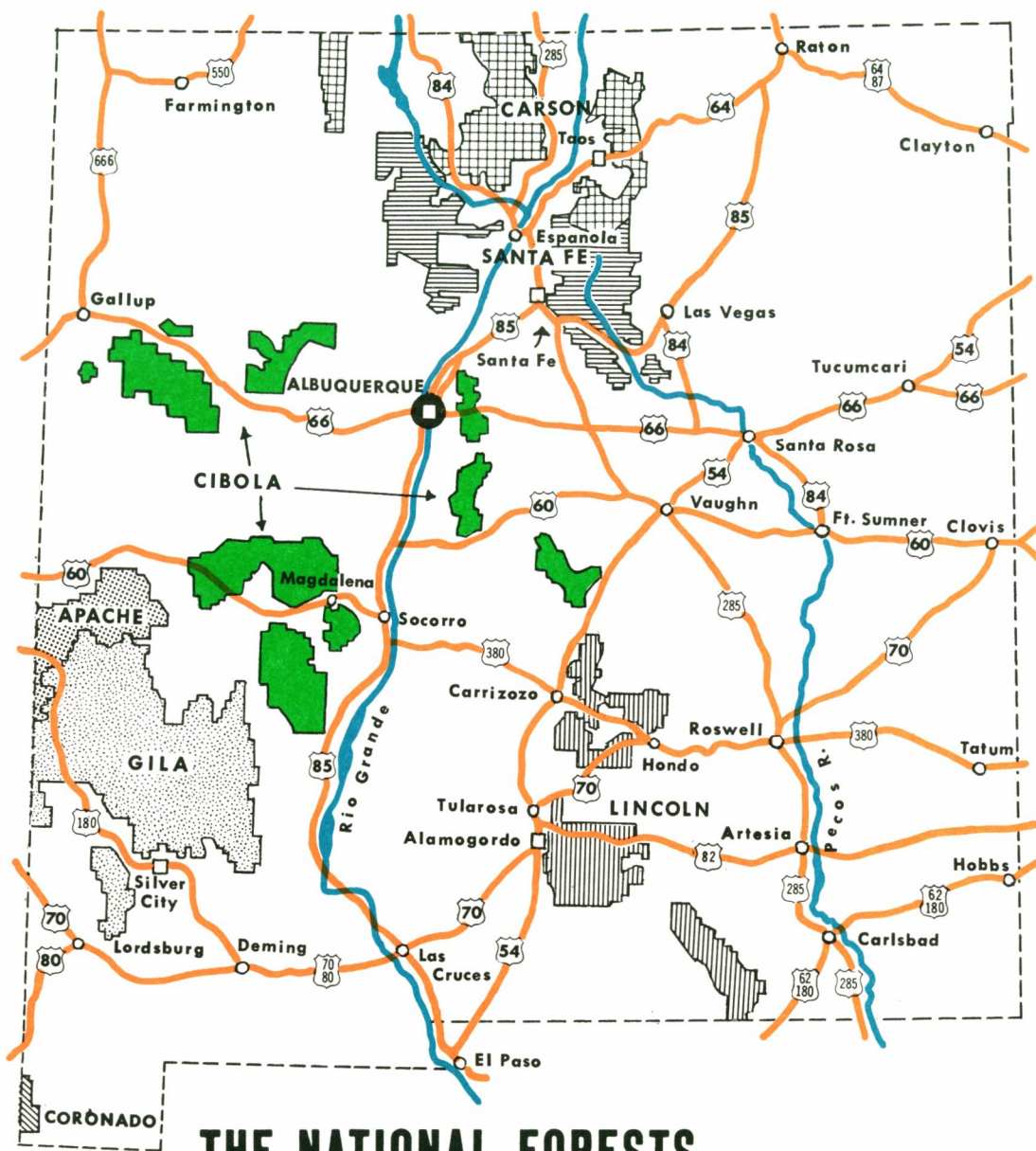
- **RECREATION**
- **WATER**
- **WOOD**
- **FORAGE**
- **WILDLIFE**

for

maximum overall

public benefit!

NATIONAL FORESTS IN NEW MEXICO



Ever since the coming of the Spanish conquistadors to New Mexico, the Cibola National Forest has played an important part in the development of the State. The purpose of this brochure is to bring you up to date on the Cibola's activities and how it is working for you and other Americans.

Our rapidly expanding population is making increasing demands on the outdoor recreation, wildlife, range, water, and timber resources of the Cibola National Forest. Accordingly, our programs are being geared up to meet public needs. Your continued understanding and support will enable the Cibola to be of greater service to our citizens in the future than it has in the past.

I am always glad to have you stop by and visit and hope you will use your National Forest at every opportunity. I would be pleased to discuss any suggestions you may have or to answer any questions concerning our management objectives and practices.

Edwin Murray
Forest Supervisor

THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Lands of Many Uses



WATER

Water brings life to parched lands, quenches their thirst, and feeds their underground channels — that is if man has not abused the land. But if he has, mother nature wreaks havoc by sending water cascading down slopes to drown him or wash him away. To make the water work for man through management is the goal of the Cibola National Forest.

Because of its geographic location, the Cibola sits astride the Rio Grande Valley. Headwaters of the Rio Puerco and Rio Salado are located in the various forest divisions. Those who depend on forest stream flows for irrigation and domestic use demand pure, unsilted water and the Cibola is actively engaged in a program to allow only clean, silt-free water flow from its boundaries.

The Bernalillo Watershed Project was started on the northwest slopes of the Sandia Mountains in 1954. This pilot project was set up to protect the community of Bernalillo from floods which occurred every time a major storm passed over the mountain slopes. Check dams, plantings, and re-establishment of vegetative cover today give Bernalillo the protection it needs.

With information obtained from the successful Bernalillo Project, the Cibola planned the Alamosa and Chaunte Watershed Projects in the San Mateo Mountains. In 1963, several thousand acres of rangeland were treated successfully and stabilized for intensive grazing management.

Stabilization of severely eroded, silt producing soils is the goal of the Lobo Canyon Watershed Project on the slopes of Mt. Taylor. Experience gained from this particular project is expected to give us valuable guides for the treatment of other highly erodible soils.

Presently the Cibola is working on the Silver Hill Watershed Project near Magdalena. Land treatment techniques are designed to eliminate the silt which finds its way from this watershed into the Rio Salado and eventually into Elephant Butte Reservoir. The Rio Salado and Rio Puerco are credited with carrying nearly half the silt which flows into the huge reservoir. Especially important secondary effect will be re-establishment of valuable grasses and browse species on an area which produces little forage at the present time.

These and new projects will continue, but the big job in watershed management will be to protect and improve the entire Forest area by proper use of all the resources — by intensive, controlled grazing management; by well planned logging operations; by control of wildfire; and by careful location and construction of roads, trails, and other man-caused disturbances. This is the real key to the production of quality water at nondestructive flow rates from your Cibola National Forest.



● Mt. Taylor, near Grants, rises to 11,389 feet.



● New stream improvement structure on Las Huertas Creek.



● Rocky Mountain mule deer pose for cameraman.



● Rocky Mt. bighorn sheep live in the Sandias.

WILDLIFE

Game animals, large and small, have always called the Cibola National Forest home. Fish, however, were scarce because perennial streams are few in number. Until recently the small volumes of water made it infeasible for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to stock them with fish. Now, through a program of stream development, trout are beginning to also call the Cibola home.

The first structures were built two years ago on Tajique Creek. Eighty-five "trash catcher" dams have lengthened the period of time during which the stream can be stocked each spring. During the winter of 1962-63, the program moved to Las Huertas Creek in the Sandia Mountains. One hundred thirty-two rock gabions or small dams were placed in the stream bed to slow down runoff and form riffles and small trout pools. The opening of fishing season found anglers on the banks of this small stream for the first time in years.

Development of the Cibola's small perennial streams will continue. Before the decade is past, we hope you'll be able to fish for cutthroat trout in the waters of Trigo and Sawmill Canyons. Bluewater Creek should be producing fine catches of rainbows and quite possibly the waters of Ox and Red Canyons will hold a prize for the persistent angler.

Just as the opportunity exists for improving fish habitat, so does the opportunity for improving the game ranges. By law, the responsibility for the habitat is vested in the Forest Service and the animals are managed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Both agencies

work together to keep wildlife numbers in balance with available food supplies. In 1963, 180 acres of key game habitat were fenced for protection against disturbance by domestic livestock. Forage plants palatable to game animals and turkey were seeded. These small plots and others planned in the coming years are expected to be of great benefit particularly for wild turkey.

Re-establishment of browse or shrub plants on the Cibola National Forest is the subject of cooperative research by the Forest and the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. As we learn from these experiments, thousands of acres of depleted wildlife range will be planted with browse species especially palatable to deer and other game animals. In carrying out this program it will not be necessary to fence all areas treated, but they will be protected and managed in connection with intensive grazing plans for permitted livestock.

In addition to revegetation work, many projects which primarily benefit other Cibola resources have side benefits for wildlife. Stock tanks are constructed where game can also stop for a drink and with ramps so small animals and birds can water without fear of drowning. Timber is harvested with built-in safeguards for stream banks and wildlife openings, and camp and picnic grounds are located away from game trails and other natural wildlife habitat.

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will continue to develop the wildlife resource of the Cibola to its maximum potential.



● Black bear roam the Cibola.



● Wild turkey makes an elusive target.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Outdoor recreation knows no season on the Cibola National Forest. People are attracted by summer's cool breezes, winter's snowy slopes, spring's display of wildflowers, and fall's blaze of color. The 1,419,900 recreation visits recorded in 1963 set a new high, up from 696,105 in 1954 and 82,000 in 1943. By projecting current trends, we expect the number of visits to exceed 2,500,000 in 1972.

The Forest Service has been in the recreation business for many years and much experience has been gained in this field. It is being put to good use in our effort to keep ahead of present-day public demands on the Forest's recreation resources. The Cibola National Forest now has 17 campgrounds containing 233 family units and 13 picnic grounds with 311 family units. A new 7,450-foot double chairlift at Sandia Ski Area will carry 700 riders per hour, 1,650 feet vertical rise up to the restaurant and upper terminal on Sandia Crest. It is planned to operate the chairlift year 'round.

Sandia Crest is one of the most popular recreation areas on the Cibola. Nearly one-half of all visitors to the Sandia Ranger District drive to the 10,648-foot Crest to look out over Albuquerque, Santa Fe, the Rio Grande Valley, the Estancia Valley, and the breathtaking panorama of 10,000 square miles.

In order to prepare for future demands, the Forest Service estimates in the "Development Program for the National Forests" that the Cibola will need to construct 114 additional camp and picnic grounds with 1,000 new family units in the next decade. The estimated cost of these improvements will be about \$2,000,000.

THE NATIONAL FORESTS

America's Playgrounds



● Spectacular view as seen from 10,678 foot high Sandia Crest.



● McGaffey Lake is a popular fishing spot.



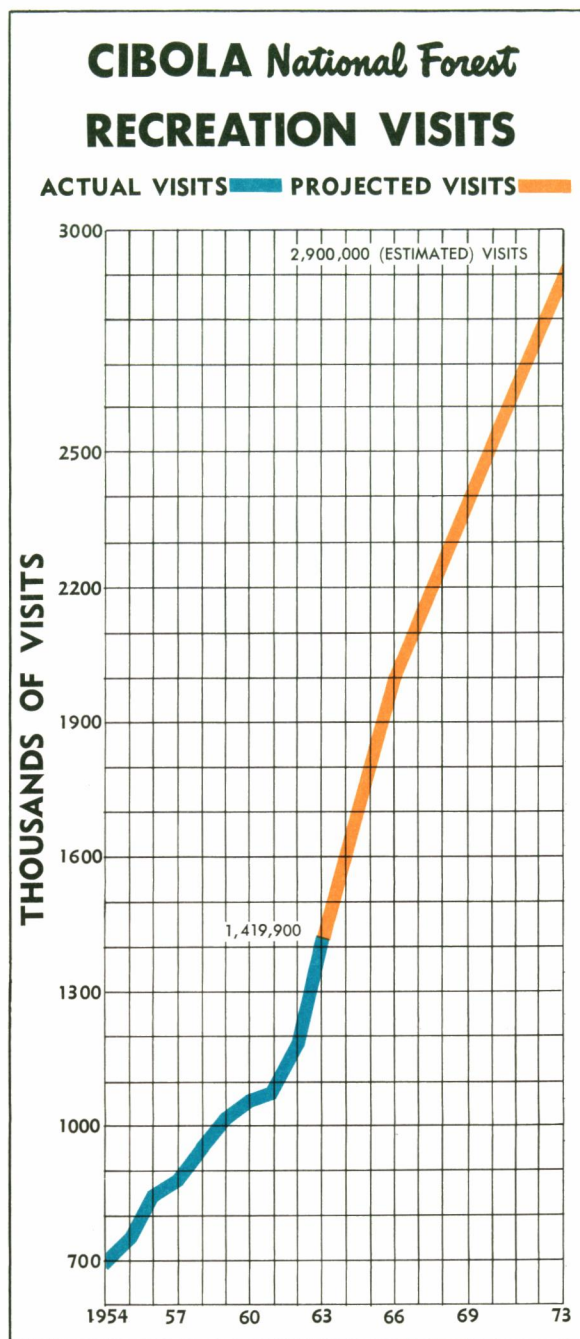
● Constructing a new garbage pit.



● Sandia Mountains as seen from downtown Albuquerque.



● New recreation facilities at Sandia Crest.



● Horseback riding is a popular National Forest use.



● Fun at Sandia Ski Area.

RANGE

The grasslands and mountain pastures of the Cibola National Forest have supplied forage for domestic livestock since the days of the Spanish conquistadors. Many thousands of acres still show the scars of early day, unmanaged grazing which all too often produced eroded, gully crossed, worn-out rangelands.

Today, the Forest Rangers of the Cibola are working to heal those scars and once again restore the waist-high grass historians wrote about. Forest Officers, working with ranchers whose cattle harvest the forage under paid permits, are writing prescriptions for systematic, controlled grazing which protects the grasses, gives them a chance to grow, and replenishes the forage resource. This cooperation means you as a forest owner and the rancher both benefit—you by conservation of the resource and the rancher because he can take better care of his herds with less effort and at the same time market heavier animals.

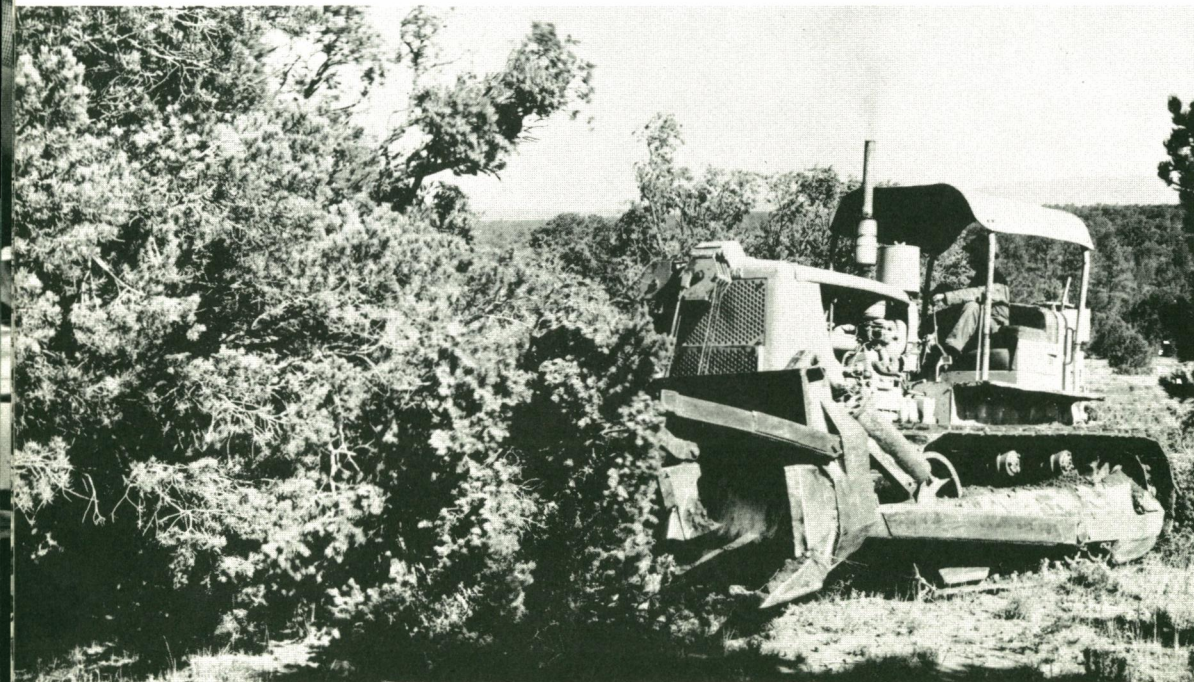
Along with this cooperative planning, fences, wells, tanks, pipelines, stock trails, and sometimes revegetation are needed to make intensive grazing management work. In 1963, the following projects were completed to aid in better management of the 16,000 cattle and 9,000 sheep supported by the Cibola each year:

- 132 miles of fence constructed or rebuilt.
- 9 earthen water tanks constructed or rebuilt.
- 7 springs developed.
- 6 wells drilled and equipped.
- 10 miles of water pipeline laid.
- 2,436 acres of juniper invasion controlled.
- 15 acres of pilot study on rabbitbrush control completed.

These accomplishments represent substantial progress toward meeting the goals of the Forest's 10-Year Development Program, but there are still 330 miles of fence to be built, 200 water developments needed, and more than 200,000 acres of range to be revegetated.



● Cattle grazing is a valuable National Forest use.



● Juniper control improves range for livestock and wildlife.

TIMBER

Ties on the Santa Fe Railroad and timbers in many of the old mines in Western New Mexico originally came from the Cibola National Forest. In the early Spanish era, in the late 1800's and early 1900's, what is now the Cibola was heavily cut over and all that was left were isolated pockets of timber.

Heavy harvesting was necessary in the 1950's in the Datil and Magdalena Mountains, where ponderosa pine bark beetles invaded and damaged or threatened entire stands. The only control method by which the healthy tree could be saved was by cutting the infested ones and completely disposing of all debris through burning. However, a sizeable amount of lumber was salvaged from the beetle-damaged trees by private sawmill operators.

The early overcutting and beetle epidemic have left the Cibola with approximately 600,000 acres of commercial timber lands many of which are poorly stocked or have heavy pole stands. Nevertheless, the Cibola has the potential for becoming one of the State's best timber producing areas and Forest Service management is directed towards achieving that objective. For example, thinning of overcrowded stands of young trees releases the remaining ones and speeds up growth, improves the water-



● Load of logs harvested on the Cibola.

shed, and produces forage for grazing of wildlife and domestic animals. To date, 5,000 acres have been thinned. Harvesting of mature timber supplies 14 sawmills adjoining the Forest and they provide employment for many local people. Most of the mills are small and each one cuts about a million board feet of timber per year.

The 10-year "Development Program for the Cibola National Forest" estimates that 176,000 acres need timber stand improvement. Completing this work will, in the next generation, increase the value of the timber resource and its contribution to the New Mexico economy.



● Forest Ranger discusses timber sale with lumberjack.



- New Fire Lookout built with Accelerated Public Works Program funds.

Wildfire is an ever-constant threat to the resources of the Cibola National Forest. In 1963, 115 wildfires were detected and controlled before devastating losses occurred. Lightning caused 100 of them and human carelessness or thoughtlessness was responsible for the other 15. These man-caused fires have increased slightly in recent years on the Cibola as more and more Americans are using the Forest for recreation.

Control of wildfire is accomplished by "finding it fast and keeping it small." On the Cibola

FIRE

the acreage burned has been kept relatively low, averaging only 372 acres per year. Improved methods and equipment have aided crews in taking faster initial action on fires, especially in back-country areas. Retardants dropped from planes and the use of smoke-jumpers are also of great help in keeping fires contained until more men can reach the scene. The Cibola has been most fortunate in having trained Indian crews, especially the Zuni, living immediately adjacent to the Forest and thus convenient for immediate dispatch to fires when needed.

Much of the credit for keeping wildfire controlled goes to people living or working on or adjacent to the Cibola. Their cooperation, along with that of other forest users, in reporting possible conflagrations has speeded up the attack. Local newspapers, radio and television stations, schools, businessmen, and many others are to be commended for their support of the Smokey Bear fire prevention program. Fire prevention, like highway safety, is never ending and Forest Rangers ask your continued care with fire of any kind when you visit the Cibola.



Smokey says:

1. CRUSH OUT YOUR SMOKES!
2. BREAK YOUR MATCHES IN TWO!
3. DROWN YOUR CAMPFIRE!
4. BE CAREFUL WITH EVERY FIRE!

- A special recreation folder for the Cibola National Forest containing general information and a map showing camp and picnic grounds, trails, and main roads is available at the Forest Supervisor's office in the U.S. Courthouse Building, Albuquerque, and at the Ranger Stations in Tijeras Canyon, Mountainair, Magdalena, Grants, and Gallup. The colorful Cibola National Forest auto sticker decal and auto bumper strip (shown here) can also be obtained at these locations.





- Microwave tower is one of many special uses on the Cibola.

SPECIAL USES

Nearly 300 special use permits have been issued on the Cibola National Forest for a wide variety of uses including experimental areas, electric power distribution lines, electronic sites, telephone lines, oil and gas pipelines, water transmission lines, and a winter sports area to mention only a few.

Sandia Crest on the Sandia Ranger District, La Mosca Peak on the Grants Ranger District, and Capillo Peak on the Mountainair Ranger District are excellent sites for electronic communications. Television programs transmitted from Sandia Crest reach 75 percent of New Mexico's population and parts of Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. In addition, 52 service installations such as telephone microwave, military and state radio networks, airline radio, and internal communications of local and state-wide commercial firms operate from these sites.

Meeting needs of our growing population in the years ahead will undoubtedly result in many more requests for special use sites on the Cibola. Each one received will be carefully analyzed in order to determine how the proposed use might affect other National Forest uses and resources. If the proposed use conflicts with other resource management and cannot be modified, it will be rejected.

ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

The 1962 Accelerated Public Works Law made it possible for the Cibola National Forest to speed up work on going projects and to get underway on others already planned. The Law was designed to provide jobs in labor surplus areas and the Area Redevelopment Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce made nearly \$1,000,000 available to the Forest for that purpose in McKinley, Sandoval, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties.

Under APW, the Cibola was able to improve 3,347 acres of commercial timber stands on Mountainair, Grants, and Gallup Districts; reduce fire hazard on 629 acres; build and reconstruct 132 miles of fence; develop 4 domestic, 5 range and 1 wildlife water developments; rehabilitate 5 old rec-

reation areas and expand Las Huertas Picnic Ground in addition to the construction of the new Trigo Canyon and New Canyon Campgrounds; construct 4 fire lookouts on La Mosca, Capillo Peak, McGaffey, and Oso Ridge, and 3 miles of trails including one to Sandia Man Cave, 7 dwellings, 2 cabins, and an office; reconstruct and surface the road leading into Red Canyon Campground; and install 153 stream improvement structures on Las Huertas Creek.

Approximately 750 under-employed or unemployed persons found work on the Cibola National Forest. Indirectly, many more were hired by contractors providing needed materials and services. Except for going contracts, the Program will end on January 31, 1964.



- Accelerated Public Works Program speeded up development of many needed projects on the Cibola.

ROADS and TRAILS

If the Cibola National Forest's resources are to make their maximum contribution to public welfare, an adequate well-planned road and trail system is essential.

In 1963, the Cibola maintained 286 miles of road and 105 miles of trail and constructed 5 miles of road and 2 miles of trail. A start was also made on the reconstruction of the popular La Luz Trail up the west face of the Sandia Mountains. Through the fine cooperation of State and County Highway Departments, an additional 63 miles of Forest roads were maintained.

During the next ten years, it is planned to construct or reconstruct 485 miles of roads and 26 miles of trail. The overall transportation plan provides for major improvements in access to the Sandias, the Mount Taylor area, the Manzano's, the Zuni's, the San Mateo's, and Magdalena's.

Continued development of the Cibola's road system will enable us to better protect the Forest from fire, harvest the timber, manage the wildlife and range, and make the Forest's numerous outdoor recreation opportunities more accessible to the people.



● Scenic road in Sandia Mountains.



● National Forest road under construction.

SUMMARY

The story of the Cibola National Forest has been told on the preceding pages. Current activities have been explained and future plans outlined. The number of persons employed by the Cibola and by contractors to carry on its program is a vital contribution to the economy. In addition, Congress has directed that 25 percent of revenue from timber sales, grazing permits, special uses, and other income sources will be paid to the counties having National Forest land for use on their roads and schools. In Fiscal Year 1963, cash payments amounted to \$21,920.50.

The program of the Cibola is an extensive undertaking. With your understanding and support we can continue to manage your National Forest to benefit the people of New Mexico and visitors from across the Nation.



● New forest entrance sign.